

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Masanori NAKAHARA et al.)	
)	
New Continuation Application of)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Prior Application No. 09/823,980)	
Prior Application filed April 3, 2001)	Examiner: Unassigned
)	
Continuation Filed: January 23, 2004)	
)	
For: INFORMATION RECORDING APPARATUS)	
AND INFORMATION RECORDING)	
METHOD)	

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
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Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the instant continuation application. Accordingly, no fee is due for filing this paper.

The listed documents were previously cited in the copending parent Application No. 09/823,980, filed on April 3, 2001, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), a copy of each reference is not provided.

Each of the seven documents listed under the "Foreign Patent Documents" section of the attached PTO Form 1449 was cited in a European Search Report dated November 13, 2002 in a

counterpart application. Copies of the listed documents and the European Search Report were filed in the parent application referred to above.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that any of the listed documents is material or constitutes "Prior Art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.


If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: January 23, 2004

By:



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) PTO Form 1449				Attorney Docket No. 041465-5106-01		Continuation of Application No.: 09/823,980			
				Applicants: Masanori NAKAHARA et al.					
				Filing Date: January 23, 2004		Group Art Unit: Unassigned		PAGE 1 f 1	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
		5,982,727	Nov. 1999	Kondo et al.	369	53.24	
		6,014,495	Jan. 2000	Moriyama et al.	369	124.08	
		6,490,404	Dec. 2002	Kuroiwa et al.	369	83	
		6,577,589	Jun. 2003	Sawabe et al.	369	275.3	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u> YES NO	
		EP 1 126 463	Aug. 22, 2001	Europe				
		WO 00/75928	Dec. 14, 2000	PCT			(w/ English abstract)	
		EP 1 102 270	May 23, 2001	Europe				
		EP 1 128 386	Aug. 29, 2001	Europe				
		EP 0 346 979	Dec. 20, 1989	Europe				
		WO 00/41178	Jul. 13, 2000	PCT				
		WO 99/34601	Jul. 8, 1999	PCT				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	